

Parrish, John

From: Barbara Byron [Bbyron@energy.state.ca.us]
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 3:55 PM
To: Robert Patrick; Steve Schnoebelon; Tommi Tyler; stepekj@cwpswrcb.ca.gov; Charleen Fain-Keslar; Andrew Burow; Jeff Wong; John Parrish; Hisam Baqai; Harold Singer; Bob Pierotti; Ben Tong; chauge@water.ca.gov
Subject: Inyo County Meetings in Sacramento on the Proposed Yucca Mountain Repository

To: The California Yucca Mountain Technical Review Team

From: Barbara Byron
Coordinator

Re: Inyo County Meetings in Sacramento Regarding the Proposed Yucca Mountain Repository

Inyo County representatives are arranging meetings in Sacramento for July 24, 25, or 26 to discuss Inyo County's Yucca Mountain program and potential transportation and groundwater impacts in California. Inyo County may be contacting your agency to arrange such a meeting. The Inyo County representatives will include County Supervisors and plan to discuss:

- (1) findings from Inyo County's research on groundwater and transportation impacts,
- (2) future Inyo County research that may impact the State, and
- (3) future coordination between Inyo Co. and the State of California with respect to the proposed Yucca Mt. high-level waste repository.

Rather than meeting collectively with representatives from our agencies in a single meeting, which seems more efficient, they prefer meeting individually with each of the California agencies. Please let me know, if possible by COB tomorrow, whether your agency is available to meet with them individually and, if so, the names of individuals in your agency who might be appropriate for such a meeting.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has indicated that they expect to submit a license application for the proposed Yucca Mountain repository to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Summer 2008. Many consider this schedule to be highly optimistic. DOE recently said the earliest that repository could be constructed and begin operation would be 2018.

A summary of California positions and issues regarding the proposed repository is provided below.

The California Yucca Mountain Technical Review Group*an interagency group of 13 California water quality, transportation and environmental agencies, coordinated by the Energy Commission-- concluded that:

1. Approval of the Yucca Mountain Site is premature given the many unresolved issues regarding potential transportation and groundwater impacts in California.

2. California's Inyo and San Bernardino Counties contain major portions of the aquifers

through which radionuclides could leak from the proposed Yucca Mountain repository. (Yucca is within 17 miles from Inyo County and less than 20 miles from Death Valley National Park*a pristine park visited annually by about 1.25 million tourists.)

3. DOE's proposal to transport 70,000 metric tons of spent fuel from nuclear reactors throughout the U.S. to the Yucca Mountain would have major transportation impacts in California. For example, Nevada estimated, using DOE's Final EIS on Yucca Mountain, that the maximum total shipments to Yucca Mountain over 38 years could be as high as 108,544 truck shipments (if mostly by truck) for the US. About 82% of these shipments could be routed through California to Yucca Mountain, averaging 2,346 shipments annually. Over the last ten years, spent fuel shipments in California average less than 1 truck shipment per year.

If you have any questions, please phone me at 916-654-4976. Thanks.

Barbara Byron